

Implementation of GHS in a Large Company

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Presenter biography

Dr. Thompson has a doctorate and master's degree in environmental health sciences from the University of Minnesota and over twenty years of experience in hazard communication and other aspects of regulatory and applied toxicology. She is presently a Technical Manager within the Corporate Medical Department of the 3M Company in St. Paul, Minnesota, where her responsibilities include the management of a group of HazCom authors and the ownership of the global business processes for 3M's hazard communication documents. She led the development of the business process for authoring REACH-compliant Safety Data Sheets and completing GHS and CLP classifications and currently oversees 3M's implementation of OSHA HazCom 2012. She has also provided toxicology support to a number of 3M's industrial, health care and consumer product divisions. In addition, Ann is responsible for managing 3M's Corporate Emergency Medical Hotline. Ann has been lecturing on hazard communication, chemical safety, and infection control for twenty years.

Ann is active in a number of professional societies and trade organizations including the Alliance for Consumer Education's (ACE) Inhalant Abuse Operations Team, serving as Chair; the Consumer Specialty Products Association (CSPA); the Northland Chapter of the Society of Toxicology (NL-SOT) and the Society for Chemical Hazard Communication (SCHC). Ann has chaired the SCHC Program Committee and is currently the Chair of the SCHC Board of Directors. In addition, she has presented a number of posters at the spring meeting and has prepared and presented lectures for six SCHC professional development courses since 1996.

Presentation abstract

Implementing the United Nation's Globally Harmonized System of the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) is a major undertaking for any entity involved in the determination and classification of the hazards associated with their materials. For companies with manufacturing and sales in the United States, a major change to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Hazard Communication Standard, known as HazCom 2012, has come at a time when they may also be implementing the GHS in their operations around the world.

This presentation will discuss the process used to implement the GHS and HazCom 2012 by one company with multiple business units selling into multiple countries. The talk will focus on the project plan which involved scoping; development of tools, processes, and people; and an update on the progress of the project.